



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## ROSS AND ALEXANDER SHARE ROBINSON AWARD

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – At its meeting in Frankfort today, the Kentucky Board of Education presented the annual Dr. Samuel Robinson Award to Gregory Ross, Ed.D., principal of McNabb Elementary in the Paducah Independent school district, and Kern Alexander, Ed.D., excellence professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and former president of Murray State University and Western Kentucky University.

Since 2004, the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award has been conferred on an individual or groups in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students. Robinson was a member of the Kentucky Board of Education for many years in the 1990s and 2000s.

Ross was nominated by Julie Gargus, a teacher at McNabb Elementary, who said he embodied the best qualities of teaching.

“He is a teacher in every aspect of the word,” Gargus said. “Although he has done many things, ranging from international athletics to directing group homes, the portion of his career he has found most rewarding is being an educator.”

Alexander was nominated by Michael J. Buckman, director of development for Nazareth Home, Inc. Buckman praised Alexander for his long involvement in public education.

“Today, Kentucky is at the top in improving higher education thanks to Dr. Alexander’s efforts in the classroom, the boardroom and in the halls of Frankfort,” Buckman said.

(more)

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**Past Recipients of the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award**

- 2004** (joint recipients) Sen. Gerald A. Neal of Louisville and the One Community, One Voice Achievement and Closing the Gap Community Committee of Fayette County
- 2005** Robert Smotherman, superintendent of the Bardstown Independent school district
- 2006** (joint recipients) Marlene Helm, Ed.D, former interim dean of the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education and Rep. Frank Rasche of Paducah
- 2007** Kathy Reed, member of the Bardstown Independent School Board
- 2008** Laura McGrail, lead school psychologist for the Henderson County school district
- 2009** Arriba Niños (Upward Children) program in Shelbyville and the First Baptist Church Bracktown in Fayette County
- 2010** Helen Mountjoy, former secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
- 2011** Robert Sexton (posthumous), executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

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